

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-20, 22-28, and 30-39 were pending. Claim 32 has been cancelled and claims 1, 14, 20, 23, 26, 28, 31, 33 and 38 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-15, 17-20, 22-28, 30-31 and 33-39 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

In the present Office Action, claims 37 and 39 are allowed, and claims 32 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 10, 23, 28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen (patent No. 5,115,506) in view of Sato (patent No. 5,459,682). Claims 1-4, 7-9, 14, 15, 20, 22, 23, 26-28, 31, 34-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maupin (patent No. 6,154,832) in view of Sato. Claims 10-13, 24, and 25 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maupin in view of Sato. Claims 5, 6, 17-19 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maupin and Sato as applied to claims 1-4, 14, 15 and 28 above, and further in view of M. Morris Mano (book entitled "Computer System Architecture"), hereinafter referred to as "Mano". Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

While Applicant traverses the above rejections as noted above and as discussed in Applicant's prior response, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the presently allowed and allowable subject matter in order to speed allowance of the present application. In particular, claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim

32. In addition, each of the remaining independent claims have been amended in a manner similar to that of claim 31.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, should the examiner believe issues remain which would prevent the present application from proceeding to allowance, the below signed representative respectfully requests a telephone interview to facilitate a resolution. The below representative may be reached at 512-853-8866.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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